Volume 8, Edition 11

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

November 2004

RADIOTRONS VACUUM TUBES *for* Amateur or Experimental Use

THE facilities and resources of the world-famous RESEARCH LABORATORIES of the General Electric Company have been concentrated upon the development and design of a new series of VACUUM TUBES for Radio Detection and Amplification. The RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA now offers to the Wireless Experimenter two distinct types, each adapted to a particular field of usage.

RADIOTRON U. V. 200, The first of the series, is a Detector and Audio Frequency Amplifier of unusual capabilities, which operates from a single standard plate battery. Best detector action occurs at plate voltages between 18 and 22½ volts, with a filament current of approximately 1 ampere, and with a grid condenser and grid leak. U. V. 200 is particularly adapted to amateur regenerative circuits. A trial in such circuits will be the most convincing.

List Price $5.00

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR ALL YOU TUBE SORTERS

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL

President Jim is away in the sunny south... of the Pacific, that is. He and Judy are on a vacation trip to New Zealand and will be back before the next meeting. He had made contact with a New Zealand ham and

will be doing dome DX operating, with himself as the DX. I believe that he took a dual band handheld with him, but with some tropospheric ducting and extremely good luck, maybe he can make a few west coast contacts. For those of you who haven't done any VHF DX'ing, it's all in how you hold the radio and point the rubber ducky. Just have your QSL cards ready for Jim's return.

ON TO THE REAL STUFF

ON CALL
Sonoma Valley ACS
November 2004

Homeland Security Grant: DES has managed to get a generous grant from Dept. of Homeland Security for new radio equipment for ACS. We have three new transceivers, a 35 amp AC supply, a 98 amp/hr battery, a tri-band VHF/UHF antenna, together with triplexer, along with connectors, coaxial antenna cable, battery charger, etc. We now need to install these at the EOC. Meanwhile, the gear is 'resting' in the training room at the P.D. Stay tuned for info on work parties.

P.D./EOC remodel: Chief John Gurney says that the move out of the EOC will probably not take place for 9 months so we may as well get our new equipment installed and running. It will be that much easier to install at a new, temporary EOC location when that happens. And, by the way, the City of Sonoma is undertaking a rewrite of the Emergency Plan dated 1994. We will have the opportunity to work with the City staff in the revision.

Training: If you did not attend the ACS training in August, do so on Saturday, November 20th. Starting in 2005, ACS members must meet minimum training requirements or they will be dropped from the roster. Most of us like the training and look forward to it. I think that most volunteers want to do a good job and understand the need to be prepared.

Hospital Drill: The hospital will be conducting the 2004 exercise on Thursday, November 18th. Jan Bush will be the coordinator for our participation. Probably four to six of our members will be needed at the hospital, EOC, etc.

Ken McTaggart N6KM, ACS Unit Leader

PACIFICON REPORT

Jim ,K6UUW, and Darrel, WD6BOR, went down to the Pacificon Pacific Division ARRL Convention for the weekend of October 22 through 24. Jim always goes early Friday to attend the antenna forums presented through the day, and found them as interesting as ever. Several other VOMARC members were down in San Ramone for the day or weekend, including Alan, K6KLL, Sanford, N7PIB, Ken, N6KM, Pat,

KE6LNN, and others not seen in the crowd or forgotten by an editor's feeble memory.

Saturday was filled with more forums than could be attended, and the hotel was filled with more amateur radio vendors than could be visited. One slight hitch was that the power went out at 7:50 am, but after a brisk sale of LED flashlights out in the halls, the forums continued until power was restored mid-morning.

Friday and Saturday evenings both had a QRP hospitality room open, with a lively estate auction of Jim Cates, WA6GER's extensive collection of QRP gear. A small hootenanny happened both evenings after most of the folks went back to their rooms, but the police weren't called, so it must have been a subdued affair.

Sunday morning found Jim and Darrel up at 4:30, ready to grab several spaces for selling Steve's, K2IYQ, gear at the swap meet. Set-up was from 5 to 6, selling was brisk from six to eight, and rain was very wet from eight am on. Although it was a short and damp swap, Jim and Darrel were able to sell quite a bit of Steve's and VOMARC's junk, ahem, I mean priceless treasures. There will be a few more trips to Livermore in the near future to take care of some of the rest.

All in all, the weekend was a wonderful time of looking, buying, visiting and just relaxing. Plan on joining the VOMARC contingent next October for what is becoming a regular VOMARC event.

VOMARC MINUTES

VOMARC MEETING, October 20, 2004

Meeting was called to order 7:40PM. 23 in attendance.

The program for the evening was presented by Mark Armstrong & Bill Hammett of KSVY, the local FM public broadcast station for Sonoma. The station is part of the Common bond Foundation and took 9 years to get on the air. The studio is at 164 West Napa Street. Most of the shows are done by volunteers from the community. The schedule is on the station's website KSVY.com.. One of the aims of KSVY is to be of help in interacting with local emergency service groups in some manner during times of emergencies.

Stan demo-ed an antenna converter he has designed to allow portability for equipment.

Guests were Ron Gove, KG6KTP, Jim Lee, KE6VGV, Kevin Ives, N6QGV, Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, SF section manager.

Minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: There is $621.19 in the bank. There was some radio equipment bought

(a Icom 718 HF rig), bringing the club's property total to $1456.15.

The only correspondence this month was the bank statement.
ACS Report: There will be a state wide hospital drill in early November. There is a unit leader meeting next week at which time Ken, N6Km, will bring back the county issued radio equipment. The decision is to install the new equipment in the current EOC and to reinstall it in the new EOC at the appropriate time. Currently, there is no time frame for the new EOC to be in service. The new equipment includes a 105 AMP battery & tender, an Antron 35A power supply, a Comet tribander antenna, a triplexes, a Kenwood public service radio that includes ham frequencies. An Alenko 220, a Kenwood 261A 2mm, and 3 headphones, plus other miscellaneous equipment. The county goal is to standardize all the emergency service radios so that anyone assigned anywhere in the county will be familiar with the equipment. There will be another local drill at some point. There is another training in Santa Rosa on November 20, 2004 for those who missed the last one. Pictures for the new county emergency services ID cards will be taken. The new cards will not be issued until the county is ready to issue all the new personnel ID cards.

There is a meeting of the Eagle Group tomorrow night. The new proposal and news from the seminars just held will be reviewed.

Website report: The newsletter is on the website. We still need to update the meeting schedule.

Old Business: There will be a VE Session November 13, 2004, at McDougal Hall. Joel Nadler, NN6J, is the new VE coordinator. He will be in contact with Randy to get the materials and needed info for the VE session. There will be a notice put in the Index Tribune.

The tube sort party went well. There were three boxes of tubes sold at the Livermore Swap last Sunday.
Darrel and Jim took Steve Todd, K2IYQ's equipment to the Pacificon Swap and sold much of it. Approximately $139 was donated to the club, the balance went to Judy Todd. There is still lots more equipment for sale.

The relay race to be held this weekend may or may not happen. There has been no reply to our offer to help with communications. If you have volunteered and have not been contacted by Jim Hill by Friday, the help is not needed.

Net control for November is Dan, KG6LJN, for December is Tom, KG6QJQ.

The annual Christmas Dinner and installation of officers is December 15, 2004, at the Depot Hotel Restaurant. The price is $36 per person and includes salad, entrée, coffee,

and dessert. Please mark your calendars and contact Eileen, KG6QNT, for reservations.

Nominations are open for officers. Eileen, KG6QNT, and Jim, K6UUW, are nominated for president, Dan, KG6LJN, and George, K6ITE, are nominated for vice president, the rest of the nominees are the current incumbents. Nominations will remain open through the November meeting. Be sure to be present to enter your nominee and to cast your vote.

There are still club T shirts for sale.

Other Business:

It is time to start thinking about and planning for the Ham Fest. Joan, W6WXU, will check with Steve Marler on the Vets building to be sure the process for obtaining one of the city's Free days, has been started.

Joan, W6WXU, read a note that was on the windshield of her car when she came out of work. The note was from Lillian Jones, the daughter of Frank Jones, W6AJF. She recognized the W6WXU license plate as a ham plate such as her father had.

Joan, also, read a short article about JOTA (Jamboree on the Air), an ARRL sponsored event for youngsters. In which her granddaughter, AE7MC, Mattie Clauson, participated by talking to cub scouts on the air.

Bill Hillendahl, SF section manager, Gave a summary of the FCC poll on BPL. The desire of ARRL is to establish a baseline for BPL interference so that there is empirical data on which to base future complaints. It is suggested all hams keep a log by frequency, date, time of day, noise level, and what equipment is in use, etc.

Bill mentioned attending a legal seminar at Pacificon presented by Phil Caine, an Attorney formerly with the FCC. Phil warned that putting up antenna towers without permits is unadvisable. Should there be an incident at any time, ones insurance company can walk away from the claim if proper permits were not obtained.

He, also, suggested we keep donations flowing to ARRL for spectrum allocation lobbying. He pointed out that whether we agree or disagree with ARRL, it is the only organization fighting for hams to maintain our spectrum allocations.

Hamvention will be in Dayton Ohio on July 17, 2005. If you are interested in attending, contact as he Bill usually reserves a bloc of hotel rooms. Also, Bill is organizing an Alaska cruise on Holland America for hams. It is not an official event, but is fun. If you are interested in joining other hams for a cruise, contact Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV.

Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU,
Secretary

THE "FOR SALE" PART

Frank Masten's old crank-up tower is till for sale. It is a two section guyed 35 foot telescoping tower and would be good for a VHF or lighter HF beam. The price on this one is negotiable, so come to the meeting or give Jim, K6UUW, 935-7441, or Darrel, WD6BOR, 996-4494, a call to discuss price.

Steve, K2IYQ's, tower. has been spoken for, subject to its suitability for the yard in question. There is another guyed sectional available that I believe goes up about 30 feet Check with Jim, K6UUW, when he gets back on this one.

Your editor still has the Kenwood TS-440AT all band transceiver with built-in automatic antenna tuner, matching power supply and Kenwood hand microphone with up/down buttons. The rig is working, and I would like to get $475 for this rig.

The club is also selling Steve Todd's, K2IYQ, electronics and ham gear. There are several 2 meter all mode transceivers for $125 each. His ICOM 706MKIIG has been sold and is on its way to New Zealand with Jim. There are several VHF and UHF home brew beam antennas, meters, signal generators, Morse code keys, paddles and keyers, boxes of microwave parts and general electronics parts, a Tektronix 465 oscilloscope, tuners, a nearly new 432 Mhz rig for $275, and much more. Jim, K6UUW, at 935-7441, or Darrel, WD6BOR, at 996-4494, for more information.

(Send your for-sale items in for the next newsletter!)

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 8 EDITION 11

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
George Maurer, K6ITE– Vice-Pres
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE SONOMA FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST, SONOMA
CU THERE!

VOMARC Christmas Party
The VOMARC Christmas party will be December 15 at the Depot Restaurant. The no-host bar (wine and beer) will open at 6pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Dinner will include salad, choice of chicken or mushroom raviolis, and dessert. The cost will be $31 per person.
Sign up now. You may make your reservations by emailing Eileen (Eileen@vom.com) or by sending in the handy form in this newsletter. Make your checks payable to VOMARC. Reservations are due by December 8.

HANDY CHRISTMAS PARTY SIGN-UP FORM
Name:_____
# of Chicken dinners:_____ # of Pasta dinners:_____
Total:_____Check enclosed

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP
VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

Address:_____APT: _____

VOMARC: $_____